

Deobil Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

The Medical Officer of Health

FOR 1917.

Population (estimated to middle of 1917) 15739.

1. STAFF.—The Staff of the Health Department of the Local Authority consists of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector. Ordinary disinfection is done by the Sanitary Inspector by means of Izal Spray, other disposal of Izal, and lime washing or distempering of walls and ceilings of infected houses.

The mechanic, for years accustomed to the use of the Council's Steam Disinfector, works that apparatus under direction of the Sanitary Inspector.

2. GENERAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.—Number registered 246 ; Number notified under Notification of Births Acts 238.

Birth rate 15·5 per 1,000 ^{estimated population} ~~births registered~~. Rate of infantile mortality 65·04. ^{of 1000 Births registered.}

Deaths under 1 year : Under 1 week 10 ; 3—4 weeks (inclusive) 3 ; 1—6 months 2 ; 6—12 months 1. Total 16.

Remarks *re* infant mortality, Causes of.—Convulsions 2 ; Meningitis 1 ; Lymphitis 1 ; Congenital Debility 4 ; Bronchitis 1 ; Pneumonia 1 ; Premature Birth 5 ; Suffocation 1. Total 16.

DEATHS.—All registered 188. Corrected for inward and outward transfers 209.

Death rate (after correction for transfers) 13·3.

Remarks on causes of death and any increase or decrease in deaths from particular causes :—

ENTERIC FEVER.—1 death from this disease was the only fatality from infectious disease other than Tuberculosis. 9 deaths from Tuberculosis. Quinquennial mean 14. There is no reduction in number of notifications, but the mortality is less.

CANCER.—Prospective incidence of Cancer cannot be estimated from statistics of one year. During the year under consideration the number of deaths is 13. Quinquennial mean 22.

3. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.						NUMBER OF		REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.
						DEATHS.		
Small Pox						CASES NOTIFIED.		
Small Pox						0		
Diphtheria						7		
Erysipelas						7		
Scarlet Fever						24		
Enteric Fever						3	1	
Puerperal „						0		
Typhus, Relapsing and Continued Fever ...						0		
Poliomyelitis						0		
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis						0		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum						0		
Measles						19		
German Measles						49		
Pulmonary Tuberculosis						32*	9	*Admitted to Sanatorium 13
Other Tuberculosis varieties						2		Admitted to Hospital 1
Total						143	10	

Remarks *re* prevalence, distribution, methods adopted for prevention, etc. Any points *re* Isolation Hospital provision:—

MEASLES AND GERMAN MEASLES were generally prevalent during the year. The disease was mild in character, and probably a number of cases escaped notification.

The following Schools were closed in consequence of prevalence of infectious disease:—
Odecombe, Mudford, Rimpton, Stoke-sub-Hamdon (Infants), West Camel.

ENTERIC FEVER.—3 cases—1 fatal. In one instance, the housing accommodation was overcrowded and most insanitary. Fortunately a furnished house, close by, was available. Skilled nurses and proper food, &c., were provided by the Local Authority. The patient recovered. The difficulty and expense were due to absence of an Isolation Hospital. Disinfection, local and by Steam Disinfector, was done.

The water supply of 2 of the houses affected was from wells on the respective premises. On bacteriological examination both supplies were found unsatisfactory and the wells are closed.

Want of proper provision for isolation and skilful care of persons suffering from infectious disease is a source of danger to those affected and also to the community.

In the case above referred to, but for circumstances quite exceptional, recovery of the patient was doubtful, and outbreak of disease more than probable.

4. GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

1.—DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND RIVER POLLUTION.

1. Question of intercommunication of Sewers between Preston Plucknett and Yeovil still deferred.

2.—WATER SUPPLY.

2. Schemes for supply of Chilton Cantelo and Mudford (extension of Rimpton and Marston Magna Mains) also deferred.

HOUSING.

Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4070
New housess erected during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Houses specially inspected under the Housing Act, 1907, during the year.	{	Reported unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
		Defective but not sufficient to report as unfit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
		Without recorded defects...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Houses reported as unfit during the year.	{	Closing Order made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
		Made fit without Closing Order	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
		Still occupied but not made fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
		Empty	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Cases of overcrowding dealt with during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

Remarks *re* quality, sufficiency of houses, etc., detail of any shortage:—

The Rural District Council have under consideration the number of new houses required and have tabulated a list of houses proposed for erection by the Rural District Council in many of the parishes, as soon as circumstances permit.

The return furnished to the L.G.B. in response to their Circular of 28th July, 1917, showed that the Council considered that 132 houses should be erected in 10 parishes of the Rural District at the conclusion of the war.

During the year the erection of 24 houses for the Council at Westland, Yeovil Without, was completed. These were built to meet a demand from the employees of Messrs. Petter's Westland Aircraft Works, and the land as well as £1,000 grant was contributed by Messrs. Petter.

This brings the total of houses already erected by the Council to 62.

A further application was made to the L.G.B. for the erection of 30 more houses at Westland; but after considerable negotiation the scheme dropped to give an opportunity of trying to satisfy the demand by putting into operation the Billeting of Civilians Act and for the working of which a Committee of the Borough and District Councils has been established.

J. DIXON ADAMS, M.D.,

February, 1918.

Medical Officer of Health.